[0034] Regardless of the manner in which a mobile device **10** is instantiated, a mobile device may include or otherwise be associated with an apparatus **20** that may be configured to facilitate automatic detection and selection of an alternative roaming provider. In an example embodiment, the apparatus may be embodied as shown in FIG. **3** so as include or otherwise be in communication with a processor **22**, a memory device **24**, a communication interface **26** and an optional user interface **28**. In some embodiments, the processor (and/or co-processors or any other processing circuitry assisting or otherwise associated with the processor) may be in communication with the memory device via a bus for passing information among components of the apparatus. The memory device **24** may be non-transitory and may include, for example, one or more volatile and/or non-volatile memories. In other words, for example, the memory device **24** may be an electronic storage device (e.g., a computer readable storage medium) comprising gates configured to store data (e.g., bits) that may be retrievable by a machine (e.g., a computing device like the processor). The memory device **24** may be configured to store information, data, content, applications, instructions, or the like for enabling the apparatus to carry out various functions in accordance with an example embodiment of the present invention. For example, the memory device **24** could be configured to buffer input data for processing by the processor **22**. Additionally or alternatively, the memory device **24** could be configured to store instructions for execution by the processor **22**.

[0035] As noted above, the apparatus **20** may be embodied by a mobile device **10**. However, in some embodiments, the apparatus **20** may be embodied as a chip or chip set. In other words, the apparatus **20** may comprise one or more physical packages (e.g., chips) including materials, components and/or wires on a structural assembly (e.g., a baseboard). The structural assembly may provide physical strength, conservation of size, and/or limitation of electrical interaction for component circuitry included thereon. The apparatus **20** may therefore, in some cases, be configured to implement an embodiment of the present invention on a single chip or as a single "system on a chip." As such, in some cases, a chip or chipset may constitute means for performing one or more operations for providing the functionalities described herein.

[0036] The processor **22** may be embodied in a number of different ways. For example, the processor **22** may be embodied as one or more of various hardware processing means such as a coprocessor, a microprocessor, a controller, a digital signal processor (DSP), a processing element with or without an accompanying DSP, or various other processing circuitry including integrated circuits such as, for example, an ASIC (application specific integrated circuit), an FPGA (field programmable gate array), a microcontroller unit (MCU), a hardware accelerator, a special-purpose computer chip, or the like. As such, in some embodiments, the processor **22** may include one or more processing cores configured to perform independently. A multi-core processor may enable multiprocessing within a single physical package. Additionally or alternatively, the processor **22** may include one or more processors configured in tandem via the bus to enable independent execution of instructions, pipelining and/or multithreading.

[0037] In an example embodiment, the processor **22** may be configured to execute instructions stored in the memory device **24** or otherwise accessible to the processor. Alternatively or additionally, the processor **22** may be configured to execute hard coded functionality. As such, whether configured by hardware or software methods, or by a combination thereof, the processor may represent an entity (e.g., physically embodied in circuitry) capable of performing operations according to an embodiment of the present invention while configured accordingly. Thus, for example, when the processor **22** is embodied as an ASIC, FPGA or the like, the processor may be specifically configured hardware for conducting the operations described herein. Alternatively, as another example, when the processor **22** is embodied as an executor of software instructions, the instructions may specifically configure the processor to perform the algorithms and/or operations described herein when the instructions are executed. However, in some cases, the processor **22** may be a processor of a specific device (e.g., a mobile terminal or a fixed computing device) configured to employ an embodiment of the present invention by further configuration of the processor by instructions for performing the algorithms and/or operations described herein. The processor **22** may include, among other things, a clock, an arithmetic logic unit (ALU) and logic gates configured to support operation of the processor.

[0038] The apparatus **20** of an example embodiment may also include a communication interface **26** that may be any means such as a device or circuitry embodied in either hardware or a combination of hardware and software that is configured to receive and/or transmit data from/to a communications device in communication with the apparatus, such as to facilitate communications with one or more mobile device **10** or the like. In this regard, the communication interface **26** may include, for example, an antenna (or multiple antennas) and supporting hardware and/or software for enabling communications with a wireless communication network. Additionally or alternatively, the communication interface may include the circuitry for interacting with the antenna(s) to cause transmission of signals via the antenna(s) or to handle receipt of signals received via the antenna(s). In some environments, the communication interface may alternatively or also support wired communication. As such, for example, the communication interface may include a communication modem and/or other hardware and/or software for supporting communication via cable, digital subscriber line (DSL), universal serial bus (USB) or other mechanisms.

[0039] The apparatus **20** may also optionally include a user interface **28** that may, in turn, be in communication with the processor **22** to provide output to the user and, in some embodiments, to receive an indication of a user input. As such, the user interface **28** may include a display and, in some embodiments, may also include a keyboard, a mouse, a joystick, a touch screen, touch areas, soft keys, one or more microphones, a plurality of speakers, or other input/output mechanisms. In one embodiment, the processor **22** may comprise user interface **28** circuitry configured to control at least some functions of one or more user interface elements such as a display and, in some embodiments, a plurality of speakers, a ringer, one or more microphones and/or the like. The processor **22** and/or user interface circuitry comprising the processor may be configured to control one or more functions of one or more user interface **28** elements through computer program instructions (e.g., software and/or firmware) stored on a memory accessible to the processor (e.g., memory device **24**, and/or the like).

[0040] Referring now to FIG. **4**, the operations performed, such as by the apparatus **20** of FIG. **3**, in order to automatically detect and select an alternative roaming provider are illustrated. As shown in block **402** of FIG. **4**, the apparatus